

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS, INC. (SEALS)**  
*Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting*

**Call to order.** The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Inc., convened on July 31, 2015. President Ellen Podgor called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m.

**Attendance.** Secretary Gail Richmond announced there was a quorum of representatives from Institutional Members. All attendees are listed at the end of these minutes.

**Minutes.** Gail Richmond announced that the 2014 minutes were posted in advance of the meeting. No additions were made to the minutes other than for typographical errors.

**Acknowledgements.** Ellen Podgor thanked the companies, schools, and other groups that sponsored events at the 2015 meeting: BAR/BRI; Bloomberg BNA; Carolina Academic Press; Federalist Society; FINRA Office of Dispute Resolution; LexisNexis; Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law; Stetson University College of Law; West Academic (which includes Foundation Press); University of Alabama School of Law; and Wolters Kluwer Law and Business. She also thanked the individuals who provided outstanding pre-meeting and on-site support: Karen Batts; Maggie Bratcher; Barbara Churchwell; Beth Damon; Christina Hood; and John Plummer. The Steering Committee gave special thanks to Peter Jetton for his efforts with the website and the meeting app.

Ellen Podgor asked all committee chairs and co-chairs to stand and be thanked. She also recognized each of the current board members and officers and noted that Jonathan Cardi and Steve Kaminshine were leaving the board this year. She asked the Steering Committee to extend a special thanks to Executive Director Russ Weaver for his ongoing efforts to make the annual conference a success. The group also thanked Ellen Podgor for her outstanding service as president this year.

**Distinguished Service Award.** Russ Weaver presented a Distinguished Service Award to Gail Richmond.

**New Members.** The Steering Committee welcomed one new institutional member (Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law, Knoxville, Tennessee). The Steering Committee also welcomed a guest, Duncan Fairgrieve from the British Institute of Comparative & International Law and Dauphine University Paris.

**Election of Officers and Trustees.** Gail Richmond announced that information about the election process for 2015 was posted to the website after the 2014 meeting; information about the 2016 election process will be posted to the website after the 2015 meeting. The groupings for rotation of the presidency are included as Appendix B to these minutes.

She indicated that information about each nominee was provided to the designated representative by the July 17 deadline. Two nominations were received for vice-president/president-elect: Nancy Levit, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Kelly Browne Olson, University of Arkansas-Little Rock, but Kelly Olson had withdrawn her name from consideration. One nomination was received for executive director: Russell Weaver, University of Louisville. One nomination was received for the at-large trustee position: Marcia McCormick, St. Louis University.

Gail Richmond asked the Steering Committee to elect Nancy Levit, Marcia McCormick, and Russ Weaver by acclamation. A motion to that effect was made by Joan Heminway and seconded by Tony Baldwin. The Steering Committee approved the motion by voice vote.

The names (and titles, as relevant) of officers and board members for 2015-16 are set forth in Appendix A to these minutes.

**Memorials.** The Steering Committee observed a moment of silence for these deceased faculty members and retired faculty members:

William B. Aycock, University of North Carolina  
Thomas Bergin, University of Virginia  
Jeremy Blumenthal, Syracuse University  
Pamela Bridgewater, American University  
Don Castleman, Wake Forest University (SEALS president, 1997-98)  
Mario Ceresa, Michigan State University  
Mandell "Mendy" Glicksberg, University of Florida  
Henry Manne, George Mason University  
Robert Pitler, Brooklyn Law School  
William Quirk, University of South Carolina  
Harry L. Reed, South Texas College of Law  
Michael Seigel, University of Florida  
Warren Schwartz, Georgetown University  
Roy Steinheimer, Jr., Washington and Lee University (SEALS president, 1972-73)  
Gordon Tullock, George Mason University  
William Wilks, South Texas College of Law

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer David Partlett reported that SEALS remains in good financial condition.

**Site Selection.** Russ Weaver reported that SEALS had selected sites (dates are posted on the website) for 2016 and 2017 (Omni Amelia Island, 2016; Boca Raton Hotel and Resort, 2017). He noted that Ellen Podgor would be sending her annual survey to participants; it will ask for comments regarding this year's site. He announced that 2018 has not been booked; send suggestions to him.

**Committee Reports.** Reports appear as Appendix C to these minutes. These reports represent the summaries made by committee chairs and are used by the Board to, among other things, evaluate the continuing efficacy of individual committees and relevance of their activities in light of potential changes to SEALS's operations.

**Other.** Ellen Podgor indicated that the website includes board policies, etc. The SEALS blog pushes out notifications to those who subscribe. The Gala is August 1, at 7 p.m. Ticket sales ended, but John Plummer may be able to facilitate transfers from those who no longer need their tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gail Levin Richmond*, Secretary

## **Attendance**

### **Institutional Member Schools (one vote per school)**

Alabama: Ron Krotoszynski  
American: Lia Epperson; Billie Jo Kaufman  
Arkansas-Fayetteville: Brian Gallini  
Arkansas-Little Rock: Philip Oliver; Kelly Browe Olson  
Ave Maria: Kevin Govern  
Barry: Eang Ngov  
Belmont: Ellen Black  
Campbell: Lucas Osborn  
Catholic: Megan La Belle  
Charlotte: Christie Matthews  
District of Columbia: Deb Cohen  
Duke: Tom Metzloff  
Elon: Steve Friedland  
Emory: David Partlett  
Faulkner: Rob McFarland  
Florida: Sharon Rush  
Florida Coastal: Cynthia Irvin  
Florida International: Kerri Stone  
Florida State: Franita Tolson  
George Washington: Roger Fairfax  
Georgetown: Kristin Henning  
Georgia: Andrea Dennis  
Houston: Jessica Roberts  
John Marshall-Atlanta/Savannah School of Law: Caprice Roberts  
Kentucky: Scott Bauries  
Liberty: Cynthia Tompkins  
Lincoln Memorial: Shelly Taylor George  
LSU: Michael Coenen  
Louisville: Russ Weaver  
Loyola-New Orleans: James Klebba  
Maryland: Michael Pinard  
Mercer: Anthony Baldwin  
Miami: Osamudia James  
Mississippi: Ron Rychlak; Ben Cooper  
Mississippi College: Matthew Steffey  
Missouri-Columbia: Richard Reuben  
Missouri-KC: Nancy Levit  
North Carolina: Jeff Hirsch  
Northern Kentucky: Lawrence Rosenthal  
Nova Southeastern: Kathy Cerminara; Joel Mintz; Gail Richmond  
Regent: Benjamin Madison  
Richmond: Corinna Lain  
Samford: Brannon Denning  
South Carolina: Derek Black  
South Texas: David Hague  
Southern Methodist: Orly Mazur  
St. Louis: Marcia McCormick; Doug Williams  
St. Mary's: Colin Marks  
St. Thomas: Tamara Lawson  
Stetson: Louis Virelli; John Keyser; Ellen Podgor; Rebecca Trammell  
Tennessee: Joan Heminway; Ben Barton  
Texas: Michael Churgin  
Texas A&M: Michael Z. Green  
Texas Southern: E. Ericka Kelsaw  
Texas Tech: Arnold Loewy  
Tulane: Catherine Hancock; Jancy Hoeffel  
Virginia: Ben Spencer  
Wake Forest: Jonathan Cardi  
Washington (St. Louis): Robert Kuehn  
Washington & Lee: Jill Fraley; Peter Jetton  
West Virginia: Vince Cardi  
William & Mary: Evan Criddle

### **Affiliate Member and Other Schools (no voting rights)**

Brooklyn: Bill Araiza  
Case Western Reserve: Cassandra Robertson  
Dauphine University Paris: Duncan Fairgrieve  
Indiana-Bloomington: Leandra Lederman  
Iowa: Angela Onwuachi-Willig  
John Marshall-Chicago: Anthony Niedwiecki  
Lewis & Clark: Samir Parikh  
Loyola Los Angeles: Michael Guttentag  
Michigan State: Renee Knake  
Nebraska: Eric Berger  
Nevada-Las Vegas: Stacey Tovino  
New York Law: Deborah Archer  
Pepperdine: Victoria Schwartz  
Southern Illinois: Lucian Dervan  
Syracuse: Hannah Arterian  
Widener: Michael Dimino  
Western Michigan (Cooley): Patrick Tolan

John Plummer, Chief of Staff

## **Appendix A: 2015-16 Officers and Board Members**

The following individuals will serve in 2015-16. Those elected at the meeting are indicated in italics. The underlined name represents an individual appointed by the president to serve the last year of a vacant at-large term. The individual appointed to serve as deputy executive director is indicated in small capital letters. (Deputies are non-board officers.)

Ellen Podgor (Past-President)  
Jeff Hirsch (President)  
*Nancy Levit* (Vice-President/President-Elect)  
*Russell Weaver* (Executive Director)  
LINDA JELLUM (Deputy Executive Director)  
Gail Richmond (Corporate Compliance Officer/Secretary)

Christopher Pietruszkiewicz (Deputy Corporate Compliance Officer/Secretary)  
David Partlett (Treasurer)  
Steve Friedland (At-Large; term ends 2016)  
Michael Z. Green (At-Large; term ends 2017)  
*Marcia McCormick* (At-Large; term ends 2018)

## **Appendix B: Rotation of Presidency**

The presidency rotates as follows (the president-elect is elected one year in advance of the year listed):

- 2017: Maryland and District of Columbia (president-elect elected at 2016 meeting)
- 2018: Mississippi and Louisiana
- 2019: Texas
- 2020: Tennessee and Kentucky
- 2021: Virginia and West Virginia
- 2022: Georgia and Alabama
- 2023: Florida
- 2024: North Carolina and South Carolina
- 2025: Arkansas and Missouri

## **Appendix C: 2014-15 Committee Reports**

### **Beginning and Newer Law Teachers Workshop Committee (Steve Friedland, Elon University, Chair)**

The Newer Law Teacher Committee for the 2015 SEALS Program designed a variety of presentations directed specifically at the newer law teacher. The Committee built on some of the panels from the prior year and added several new ones. The deans panel, “What Deans Would Tell Newer Law Professors If They Asked,” offered by Dean Jennifer Bard, is being repeated, given its success last year. A panel on teaching philosophy and approaches, “Putting Your Teaching Philosophy to Work in the Classroom,” and another one on designing courses, “Designing an Effective First Year Course and Upper Level Course or Seminar, will be repeated in their essential forms, although tweaked for the current program. Another repeated program involves scholarship, “Becoming a Productive and Fulfilled Scholar.” Two different assessment panels are being offered, one focusing on A.B.A. Standard 302, “Creating Learning Outcomes Under the New A.B.A. Standard,” and the other on student evaluation, “Creating Successful Essay and Multiple Choice Questions for Examinations, Quizzes and Other Evaluation Tools.” Brand new for 2015 is a discussion group on mentoring first generation professionals and a panel on teaching students born in the digital age.

### **Call for Papers Committee (Ron Rychlak, University of Mississippi, Chair)**

This year the Call for Papers Committee put out the call on September 29, with a submission deadline of December 1. As always, we noted that submissions may be on any topic related to law and may involve either an unpublished paper or an abstract, but we also explained that in the past the judges have tended to favor completed papers over promising abstracts. We received 25 submissions, which was an increase over last year but lower than many recent years. Almost most all of them were completed papers of a very high quality. The entire committee read each paper, and we had two rounds of voting. The winning authors and papers are: Professor Jennifer Daskal's "The Un-Territoriality of Data;" Professor Brian Gallini's "Historical Case for Abandoning Strickland;" Professor Samir Parikh's "A New Fulcrum Point for City Survival;" and Professor Anna Roberts' "Asymmetry as Fairness: Reversing a Peremptory Trend."

### **Distance Education Committee (Rebecca Trammell, Stetson, Chair)**

The Committee discussed various projects and options during the year including continuing the EXPO, another Discussion Group or a series of Workshop Programs. We opted for 4 consecutive Workshop programs to be run on four consecutive days.

***Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*** – focusing on what has been done, what is being done and new programs in distance learning including the William Mitchell hybrid online evening program.

***Technology in the Classroom and at a Distance*** – looking at teaching and learning tools that work in both the face to face and distance classrooms.

***Educating the Digital Lawyer*** – identifying today's digital world of law practice and the need to use digital programs to teach students and assist alumni in moving into this digital world of law practice.

***Going the Distance with Experiential Learning*** – ABA Standards are requiring experiential learning and assessment, and digital tools, both in face to face and online classrooms can help law schools satisfy these ABA Standards.

The Committee is focusing on projects that can be implemented immediately, and ideas for next year's Distance Learning programs.

### **Hospitality Committee (Tony Baldwin, Mercer, Chair)**

The Hospitality Committee had a quiet year in 2014-15. After completing its assigned 2013-14 tasks (brainstorming to suggest new ideas and adjustments for the conference and completing a How To Navigate SEALS Draft), the committee did not receive any assignments or requests for further work on the 2013-14 tasks. As usual, the committee prepared a Hospitality Directory for attendees.

### **Inclusiveness Committee (Andrea Dennis, Georgia)**

During the 2014-2015 year, the committee engaged in the following activities:

- Reviewed 2014 annual meeting survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Reviewed 2014 annual meeting new scholars survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Supported creation of women's division for the 2015 golf tournament
- Provided feedback on the "Guidance on Navigating the SEALS Program Proposal Process" memorandum published on the SEALS website
- Distributed the annual meeting program panel submission notice to the AALS Latino scholars and minority scholars listservs, as well as to listservs for clinicians and librarians

- Shadowed the 2015 annual meeting panel approval process for inclusiveness concerns
- Reviewed 2015 panel proposers' statements asserting their compliance with SEALS's goals for program inclusiveness
- Assisted individuals interested in presenting at the 2015 annual meeting with identifying opportunities, and assisted panel proposers with identifying interested individuals from underrepresented groups

**International Committee (Pat Hugg, Loyola-New Orleans, and Claudio Grossman, American University, Co-Chairs)**

The International Committee had an active year.

First, the committee enjoyed a robust turnout and planning discussion at its annual luncheon during the 2014 annual meeting. The group launched new initiatives in two projects and continued an international event that the group had presented in the past: namely to present a panel discussion at the 2015 European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) Annual Meeting in Istanbul, to organize a conference on the topic of the potential reconciliation of the divisions on Cyprus, staged in Cyprus, and finally to record these events electronically, so that all members of SEALS could view them anywhere, anytime.

Second, SEALS members delivered the panel presentation at the ELFA meeting in April of this year, in what the host organizer of the conference described as the best attended, most interesting panel presentation of the conference. The topic related to the Edward Snowden controversy, and it drew a huge audience (we estimated some 65 people in the room). We had invited Russian professors to offer remarks at the conclusion of the event, and they did so. The result was a stimulating international discussion. SEALS presenters included Dean Jon Garon of the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University, Prof. Richard Meyer of Mississippi College School of Law, and Prof. Dane Ciolino of Loyola New Orleans College of Law, and the panel was moderated by Prof. Pat Hugg, also from Loyola.

Third, the presentation was recorded by Prof. Meyer and is available for viewing. This is a first for the SEALS international Committee, and was organized and implemented by Prof. Rich Meyer.

Finally and unfortunately, the conference in Cyprus had to be deferred due to numerous reasons.

Overall, we judge it as a good year for the international committee.

**Mentor Committee (Ben Barton, Tennessee, and Kathy Cerminara, Nova Southeastern, Co-Chairs)**

We love the process of finding and guiding mentors for the new scholars and junior scholars panels. We think those panels - and the matching of mentors/discussants with new or junior scholars - are the heart of the SEALS experience.

We have routinized a good process for efficiently stocking New Scholar panels with mentors, by having each member of the Mentor Committee match mentors for one or two panels. We always face the challenge of late cancellations or additions, but we keep a roster of emergency mentors for these occasions, and that has helped. This year we also found discussants for the new(ish) Junior Scholars Works-in-Progress panels, a natural offshoot of our mentor-finding.

We keep a list of mentors, with their subject areas of expertise and we also track which mentors have worked well or not so well on our "naughty or nice" list. As per usual, we are very grateful to the Chair of the New Scholars Committee, Missy Lonegrass, who is a wizard of panel creation and is always a pleasure to deal with.

### **Moderator and Coordination Committee (Jancy Hoeffel, Tulane, Chair)**

The Moderator Committee was a quiet, humming machine. We were able to fill moderator slots easily and quickly. A few changes of note this year. First, the Committee did not find moderators for Discussion Groups, as was decided last year. This was because the organizer of a Discussion Group expected that he or she, or a member of the Group, would be the moderator. Hence, they have been designating their own moderators this year. One other change is that many more of the panels seemed to have already selected their moderator before we entered the picture. This would only be an issue if the selected moderators were largely from the same schools or not from member schools, but that did not seem to be the case. As for the remaining slots that our Committee needed to fill, we ensured that we “spread the wealth” by not allowing any one school more than two moderator spots until we got desperate, and then we opened up the slots to the first taker. Of note, getting moderators for tax panels was no easy task without Gail Richmond’s help. As with last year, each Committee member reached out to a group of moderators to disseminate guidelines and suggest connecting with panelists, and each attending Committee member will be assigned a half-day of the conference to be “on call” and monitor any issues that may arise.

### **New Scholars Committee (Missy Lonegrass, Louisiana State, Chair)**

The New Scholars Committee began the year by welcoming new member Professor Atiba Ellis of the West Virginia University College of Law. Soon after the 2014 Conference ended, the Committee prepared and circulated its annual New Scholars Survey in cooperation with the Mentors Committee. New Scholars who participated in the 2014 program generally reported that the SEALS New Scholars Program was a positive and enriching experience. Those results were in line with results from past surveys.

Beginning in the fall and extending into the spring, the Committee accepted nominations to the 2015 New Scholars Program and organized participants into panels. This year the number of New Scholars is the lowest in recent memory, with only 33 New Scholars participating in the program. The participants were organized into 12 panels. The Committee believes the low participation reflects the recent decreases in law faculty hiring and in travel budgets, even for untenured faculty. We are hopeful that participation in next year’s program will be more robust.

Although participation in the New Scholars Program declined, the Committee’s new Junior Scholars Works-in-Progress Workshops have increased in popularity. This program invites untenured faculty to submit short (10 page) proposals on works-in-progress for feedback from an assigned Commentator and discussion at a workshop-style meeting. In 2014, the Committee organized two such workshops involving a total of six participants. The 2015 program includes three workshops involving a total of 11 participants. The Mentors Committee assisted in securing Commentators for each of the papers in the program.

The Committee also continued its tradition of organizing one substantive panel on a topic of teaching, scholarship, or service and geared toward beginning or newer law faculty. This year’s Discussion group titled “Navigating Identity: The Challenges of Diversity and Professionalism in the Academy” focuses on diversity in all forms and the ways by which newer members of the academy can navigate the challenges of diversity early on in their careers.

Finally, the Committee has continued in its new emphasis on socializing and networking opportunities for the New Scholars. A Happy Hour will be held early in the program at which New Scholars can meet and interact in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

### **Program Committee (Russ Weaver, Louisville, Chair)**

The committee accepted program submissions, prepared the program, and worked with other committees as needed.

### **Program Advisory Committee (Jonathan Cardi, Wake Forest, Chair)**

The committee continues to serve as a resource for the Executive Director on an as-needed basis. It is charged with advising him on panel proposals and other issues regarding the program on which he would like broader and more diverse viewpoints. Committee input was needed only once for the 2015 meeting.

### **Program Formatting Committee (Ben Cooper, University of Mississippi, Chair)**

The Program Formatting Committee this year successfully performed its mission: formatting the full conference schedule and day-at-a-glance. The committee worked very well together in proofing the schedule and dealing with a large volume of changes prior to the conference. We also worked with a graphic designer to make the final formatting of the program and day-at-a-glance, and then sent the programs to West to have those documents printed and sent to the hotel.

The other major area for the committee was to continue working with Peter Jetton to update the new electronic program submission system. In particular, we frequently sought modifications of the system to better fit with the program layout, which Peter was almost always able to accommodate.

### **Prospective Law Teachers Workshop Committee (Luke Milligan, Louisville, and Leah Chan Grinvald, Suffolk, Co-Chairs)**

The Prospective Law Teachers Committee began its year's work by collecting feedback from the 2014 workshop. After review and discussion we agreed that practice interviews and practice jobtalks should again be the centerpiece of the workshop. In addition to this "skills" portion of the workshop, we scheduled 1-on-1 sessions for prospective teachers to receive faculty feedback on their CVs. We also scheduled a panel discussion focusing on navigating the hiring process. Once again we cross-listed with the New Law Teachers Workshop, sending prospective law teachers to the New Law Teachers programming on teaching, research, and course design. Our workshop took place on Tuesday, July 28, and Wednesday, July 29. Due to the workshop's heavy emphasis on skills training, the committee decided to cap the workshop at ten participants. We marketed the workshop through the SEALS listserve, faculty blogs, and targeted emails to directors of VAP/Fellowship/LLM programs. 20 individuals expressed interest in the workshop. Ten prospective teachers enrolled (due to a cancellation, 9 participated). 28 faculty volunteered with the workshop.

### **Scholarly Research Committee (Roger Fairfax, George Washington, Chair)**

The SEALS Scholarly Research Committee was formed in 2012 with the purpose of enhancing the scholarly reputation of SEALS. The Committee—which has a terrific collection of individuals, including junior and experienced scholars, current and former associate deans for research, and liaisons to key SEALS committees and the Board—has been working to identify and highlight the scholarly contributions made by participants in the SEALS annual meetings and other programming.

The Committee continues to consider proposals to enrich the scholarly environment at SEALS and has reached out to other SEALS Committees such as the New Scholars Committee, Mentor Committee, and Website Committee, to lay the foundation for joint efforts. The Committee is convening during the 2015 SEALS annual meeting to discuss the encouraging increase in the number of discussion groups and

panels that have had papers published in law review symposium issues. We are planning to share with SEALS participants strategies to identify such publishing opportunities for papers generated at the annual meeting. As in the past year, the Committee will continue to work to increase scholarly engagement at SEALS and to ensure that we support and celebrate the scholarly achievements of our conference participants.

**Sponsorship Coordinator (Billie Jo Kaufman, American)**

Regular sponsorships seem to occur without much on-going work or prodding. Although some potential sponsors indicate they will sponsor, but do not ultimately finalize an agreement, we did add a new sponsor this year.

There have been many mergers and partnerships that have lessened the numbers of opportunities.

SEALS members tend to stop at book related tables and attended BAR/BRI and CaseBook Plus presentations in healthy numbers, so some vendors appear to want “access” to attendees in a manner other than “stopping” by the table.

Vendor location can be a problem when the venue does not have sufficient space in the registration area. Split exhibit areas complicate networking opportunities.

We may make sponsorship opportunities more formal; I have given Board members information about how AALS recognizes sponsors.

**Website, Technology & Communications Committee (Peter Jetton, Washington & Lee, and John Keyser, Co-Chairs)**

The primary task of the Website, Technology and Communications Committee this year was to evaluate and deploy a mobile app for the 2015 conference. John Keyser took the lead on evaluating different vendors for the app and also solicited feedback from other SEALS committee and board members. We chose CrowdCompass, a product of the event planning software company Cvent. After selecting CrowdCompass, John Keyser and Peter Jetton worked with contacts at the company to develop and deploy the app. We also solicited early testers from the membership of our committee, and five members volunteered to help evaluate the app when ready. Preparing the data from the SEALS panel/discussion group submission system for bulk upload to the mobile app proved to be the greatest challenge, a process that will be much easier going forward, especially if we stay with this vendor. The app was made live a couple of weeks before the conference and shared with the early testers, board members and others. It was shared with all attendees the week before the conference. We will be able to report on usage during and after the conference using built in metrics from CrowdCompass.

The SEALS panel/discussion group submission system continues to expand as new features are requested. For example, this year, new custom submission interfaces were created for the Call for Papers and New Scholars committees to help manage those processes. After several years of use, the system is due a rewrite and redesign to implement in a more efficient way various processes that have been requested since the original scope was determined. Peter will discuss this in greater detail during the committee lunch meeting at the conference.